

Back to School

# Morning Star Minutes

“Children are our First Priority”



Morning Star Preschool  
& Child Care Center

## Open House

Thursday, August 25th  
6:30-7:30 PM

This event is for our  
Purple, Green, Red & Orange Stars



Morning Star Preschool  
& Child Care Center

Volume 12, Issue 8  
August 1, 2011

August 2011

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS August 2011

- ☆ August 4, Sky Scraper Displays-P,G,R,O,Y
- ☆ August 12, Paper Plane Competition-P,G,R,O,Y
- ☆ August 15, Science with Mr. Brian-G,R,O,Y
- ☆ August 25, Open House-P,G,R,O
- ☆ August 26, Silly Day Parade-P,G,R,O,Y
- ☆ August 29, First Day of 2011-2012 Morning Star School Year, CW

### LOOKING AHEAD

- ☆ September 5, Labor Day, Center Closed
- ☆ September 7, Fall Fund-raiser, CW

## August 1st-6th:

### What Can We Build?

Problem solving and working together will help us create great structures. We will be using different materials and watching our imagination soar.



## August 8th-12th: Up, Up and Away

Things that fly will be our focus this week; it might be airplanes, rocket ships, birds, or even insects.



## August 15th-19th: Let's Get Messy!

A child learns the most and best by doing. This week we will concentrate on making concoctions. We will learn how by mixing simple things together, we get a whole new material to explore.

## August 22nd-26th: Children's Choice

Every child likes to have a voice in what they want to learn about. The teachers and the children will decide together what they will do this week. Each class will be exploring different opportunities!



### Inside this issue:

August Themes	1
August Calendars	2
Parent Packet	2
Yellow & Orange	2
Classroom Chatter	3
Director's Notes	3
August Field Trips	4
2011-2012 Staff	4

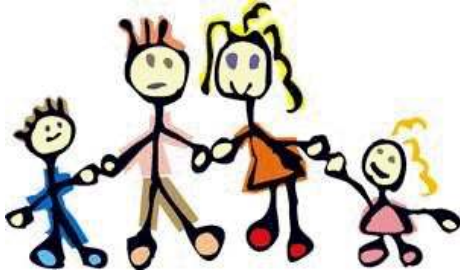
# August 2011

Date	Themes	Events	Event Dates	Class
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>Happy Birthday Judy Schachner-August 20th</b>		<b>End of Summer Field Trips/Speakers TBA</b>	
1st-5th	What Can We Build?	Omaha Children's Museum Field Trip Sky Scraper Displays	August 3 August 4	O,Y P,G,R,O,Y
8th-12th	Up, Up and Away	Paper Airplane Competition	August 12	P,G,R,O,Y
15th-19th	Let's Get Messy!	Science with Mr. Brian Kid's Escape After Hours	August 15 August 19th	G,R,O,Y CW
22nd-26th	Children's Choice	Open House Silly Day Parade	August 25 August 26	P,G,R,O,Y P,G,R,O,Y

Good bye Staff  
We do not say good bye to  
staff very often...

Ms. Amanda, Ms. Mayra,  
Mr. Peter and Ms. Kathleen  
will ALL be going to college  
full time this fall.

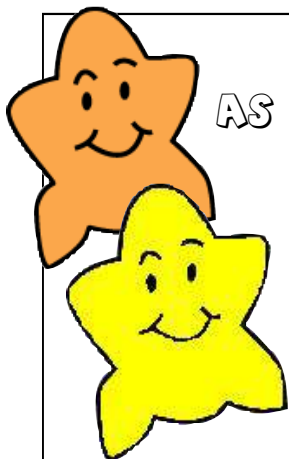
We are so proud of you  
and we look forward to  
you coming to visit often!



## Parent Packets

Parent Packets will placed in current student folders the 2nd week in August.  
What is in the Parent Packet?

1. 2011-2012 Handbook
  - ☆Yearly schedule
  - ☆Classmates names and phone numbers
  - ☆Tuition
  - ☆Rules
  - ☆Information
2. Teacher Letter
3. Supply List
4. Daily Class Schedule
5. Things that must be returned before the first day of school—August 29
  - \* 2011-2012 Emergency Card
  - \* 2011-2012 Terms of Agreement
  - \* Social Resume
  - \* Orange Star Playground release

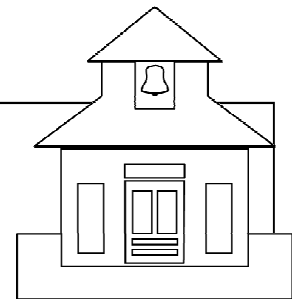


AS OUR YELLOW AND ORANGE STARS  
MOVE FORWARD...

Please know that we are so proud of you...  
we really enjoyed our summer together!

To the Orange Stars that are leaving for kindergarten....and to  
their special mommies and daddies...we love you.

We look forward to seeing you all during school breaks!



Back to School

# Morning Star Classroom Chatter by Your Child's Teacher



**White Stars**—The White Stars have been enjoying early morning stroller rides complete with sunscreen and hats. It is fun to stop and watch the older children as they play outside.

Wilson, Olivia, and Bode are crawling and exploring the room; the soft steps and slide seems to be a favorite place to be. Collin has mastered sitting up and is oh so pleased. Adalyn enjoys watching the happenings of the room as she rolls over.

We will be greeting some new friends in August—we can hardly wait!



**Blue Stars**—July has been all about Nursery Rhymes. The Blue Stars love hearing the rhymes and following the pictures on the walls. We are signing as we go! Nursery Rhymes are a wonderful way to prepare for children's Reading, Math, and Music skills!

The other big news for our room is that three of our friends learned to walk in the same week! Josie, Dominic, and Max are our proud new walkers!



**Purple Stars**—We welcome Caleb to the Purple Star room. This month the children cooled off with a visit from the ice cream truck. They got to hand the ice cream man their money, hear the bell and get a cool treat. Fun! We talked about different animals during zoo week and made trunks so we could pretend to be elephants.

Purple Stars always love a good book. We enjoyed "On Mother's Lap" and acted it out by adding dolls, blankets and boats to each other's laps just like in the book. "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" was another story we had fun with. We had 3 sizes of bears, bowls, chairs and blankets and even stirred some porridge (oatmeal).

**Green Stars**—Happy Independence Day! What a nice day to remember those who serve and thank the Lord for the blessing of freedom! We also celebrated two birthdays this month as Theo and Cecilia turned three- Happy Birthday!

We loved learning about animals and were able to meet a few new ones during the Wildlife Encounters visit. We pet a leg-less lizard and an alligator, and even played catch with a monkey!

During our children's choice unit we learned about water. The heat made it easy to appreciate how much our bodies need it, and we also learned that water is a liquid and frozen water (ice) is a solid.

**Red Stars**—Happy Birthday to Reece!

During the Fourth of July week the Red Stars started learning the Pledge of Allegiance! We are proud to say that most of the children know the entire thing, ask your child to recite it for you! The Red Stars had a blast on the zoo field trip! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to come have fun with us! During our book week we became authors and illustrators and created our own class books! Be sure to check them out! A neat science thing; lately, every morning, when we head outside we have been finding HUGE spider webs all over our playground! We even are finding spiders in the webs! We're sad to see this last month of summer arrive, but we'll be sure to make it the best yet!

**Orange Stars Pre-K**—The Orange Stars enjoyed our trips to Ecreamery, the zoo and the baseball game

this month! Ms. Jill's highlight of the month is when she got to play catch with a monkey during "Wildlife Encounters." This last week of July was spent acting out literature, creating plays, and making props. Some of our friends our having "the final day" with their Orange Star friends, and many more Orange Stars will begin to say good-bye as August arrives. Parents- we have truly enjoyed your little ones this last year. Please stop back and see us! PS- children LOVE to become Yellow Stars...so consider us for your summer care!

**Yellow Stars**—This summer has been so amazing with the school-agers, and now we will send them off for another year of school. My goal this summer has been to push these kids to look at everything-not just art-with new perspectives. They have looked at paintings and explained why they are or aren't art. They have seen the amount of work that goes into planning an event and consequently the work that the adults in their lives put into everything they have. I hope that all of them continue to be thoughtful about the way they live-only making judgments when you can back it up and looking past what is literal.

This fall I am writing my thesis for my Masters in Arts Education and this program was part of my research for it. I've discovered so much that may help shape the art curriculum of our schools one day. Your kids were a great part of it, and they will receive credit for their hard work. I hope that you all keep in touch; I want to hear about all the great things you are doing. Good luck this school year!

## Director's Note:

Dear Parents,

This is the last newsletter this summer...my babies are going to kindergarten. I've tried to bribe them to stay another year...but they are ready to move forward. They are so excited, new clothes, new backpacks. We send our love to each an every school age child.

Our teachers are ready to start their new year this fall. The Open House is August 25th from 6:30-7:30 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teachers, show your child their new cubbie and coat hook. Name tags repeat every

year...this brings children a sense of security.

Remember, each class works with a different schedule, your child's teacher will be "fine tuning" the daily schedule during the first month. A "current" daily schedule will be posted outside each classroom.

Another new thing that we're doing this year is encouraging teachers to email parents regarding their programs and special events. Please take extra care to fill out your child's social resume and PRINT

your email address.

Several changes have been made to the handbooks this year...the biggest change is our decision to become peanut-free. We all love home-made goodies, but we run into problems when there is no product label. To protect our children-no more nuts/peanut products.

Thank you parents and staff for making our summer so successful! I am looking forward to starting a new year!

**Susan**

# Bits & Pieces

Wed. Aug. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Omaha Children's Museum	Leave @ 9:00; play 9:30-11:30; eat <u>sack lunch</u> , leave there @ 12:00
Aug. 8th-12th	Hot Air Balloon	TBA-Depends on weather

Thank you parents for ALL the wonderful boxes and containers.



Watch for our skyline on August 4th!

# Field Trip

## News for August

### Director

\*Susan A. Snow

### Asst. Director/Records

\*Judy Hollander

### Asst. Dir. Staffing & Events

\*Jill Garrett

### Program Coordinator

\*Marilyn Sander

### Book Keeping

\*Cherie Schnack

### White Star Teachers

\*Marilyn Sander  
\*Sherry Haverman  
\*Susan Davie

### Blue Star Teachers

\*Cindy Evans  
\*Molly Wilson  
\*Susan Davie

### \*Purple Star Teachers

\*Kathy Widdershoven  
\*Laura Knudson

### Green Star Teachers

\*Amanda Krahling  
\*Brenna Rosenberg  
\*Brette Daiss

### Red Star Teachers

\*Ashley Riddle  
\*Mayra Ruelas  
\*Liz Sampson

### Orange Star Teachers

\*Jill Garrett  
\*Brian Weaver  
\*Lindsey Parkyns

### Yellow Star Teachers

\*Melinda Wriedt Kozel  
\*Lindsey Parkyns

### Floaters

\*Lindsey Parkyns  
\*Felicia Dodenhof  
\*Samantha Cejka  
\*Jessie Schnieder

### Support Staff

\*Sue Harm  
Kitchen  
\*Keith Haverman  
Kitchen  
\*Ashley Miller  
Kitchen  
\*Deanna Brown  
\*Peter Dudziak  
\*Kathleen Loach

### Parent Advisory Committee

\*Pastor Tom Miller  
\*Susan A. Snow  
\*Deb Washburn  
\*Mark Lust  
\*Margie Bross  
\*Laura Preisman



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